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PATENT

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Date of Signature and Deposit: February 8, 2002

Attorney of Record

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Timothy LaBadie et al.
 Serial No.: 09/259,619
 Filed: March 1, 1999
 For: Internet Based Payment System
 Group Art Unit: 2761
 Docket No.: 210655.90018

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his time in discussing this application on November 13, 2001. In light of those discussions, and in response to the Office action dated August 8, 2001, please amend the above referenced application as follows:

Please cancel claims 5 and 12.

Please amend claims 1 through 4, and 6 through 13 as follows:

01-1102

Sub D 1. A check transport system comprising:

a merchant computer programmed to communicate with the Internet to create an Internet site listing products for sale and indicating an option for payment by check drawn on funds held by a third party bank;

a customer computer communicating with the merchant computer to identify the product desired to be purchased and to select the check payment option, the customer computer further transmitting at least one unique customer identifier over the Internet; and

a processor computer programmed to receive at least one customer identifier from the merchant computer in response to a selection of the payment by check option, the processor computer further including a data structure matching the customer identifier to at least one